

Appl. No. 09/733,490
Amdt. dated August 30, 2005
Reply to Office action of Nov. 19, 2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-51 (Canceled).

52. (Currently Amended) A casino gambling system in which a credit item may be utilized as a medium of value, said casino gambling system comprising:

a server computer;

a plurality of casino gambling units operatively coupled to said server computer, one of said casino gambling units comprising:

a display unit;

an input device that allows a player to make an input selection;

a value-input device adapted to receive the credit item; and

a controller operatively coupled to said display unit, said input device, and said value-input device, said controller comprising a processor and a memory operatively coupled to said processor,

said controller being programmed to allow the player to make a wager,

said controller being programmed to cause a game display to be generated on said display unit, said game display representing a game selected from the following games: video poker, video blackjack, slots, video keno and video bingo,

said game display comprising an image of at least five playing cards if said game is video poker,

said game display comprising an image of a plurality of slot machine reels if said game is slots,

said game display comprising an image of a plurality of playing cards if said game is video blackjack,

said game display comprising an image of a plurality of keno numbers if said game is video keno,

said game display comprising an image of a bingo grid if said game is video bingo, and

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said controller being programmed to determine a value payout associated with an outcome of said game; and
a cashier computer operatively coupled to said server computer, said cashier computer comprising:

a cashier credit-input device adapted to receive the credit item;

a cashier dispenser that is capable of dispensing an item representing a medium of value;

a biometric input apparatus capable of generating digital data representing a unique physical characteristic of a cashier, said biometric input apparatus being selected from the group of biometric input apparatuses consisting of a fingerprint scanner, an eye scanner, a camera, and a microphone/voice digitizer apparatus; and

a cashier controller operatively coupled to said cashier credit-input device, said cashier dispenser, and said biometric input apparatus, said cashier controller comprising a microprocessor and a memory,

said cashier controller being programmed to control access to said cashier computer based upon digital data generated by said biometric input apparatus,

said cashier controller being programmed to store digital data representing a fingerprint if said biometric input apparatus comprises a fingerprint scanner,

said cashier controller being programmed to store digital data representing a portion of a person's eye if said biometric input apparatus comprises an eye scanner,

said cashier controller being programmed to store digital data representing a portion of a person's face if said biometric input apparatus comprises a camera,

said cashier controller being programmed to store digital data representing a person's voice if said biometric input apparatus comprises a microphone,

said cashier controller being programmed to determine whether
[[a]] the credit item accepted by said cashier credit-input device is

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valid,

said cashier controller being programmed to cause a first prompt to a person to be generated to cause the person to present a unique physical characteristic of the person to said biometric input apparatus at a first time,

said cashier controller being programmed to store a first set of digital data derived from said biometric input apparatus in response to the person presenting the unique physical characteristic to said biometric input apparatus at the first time,

said cashier controller being programmed to cause a second prompt to the person to be generated to cause the person to present the same unique physical characteristic of the person to said biometric input apparatus at a second time,

said cashier controller being programmed to store a second set of digital data derived from said biometric input apparatus in response to the person presenting the same unique physical characteristic to said biometric input apparatus at the second time,

said cashier controller being programmed to determine whether said biometric input apparatus has made a predetermined number of scans of the same unique physical characteristic of the person, and

said cashier controller being programmed to generate a set of composite digital data by determining an average of said first and second sets of digital data.

53. (Currently Amended) A casino gambling system as defined in claim 52 wherein said cashier credit-input device comprises a ticket reader ~~that is capable of reading~~ and the credit item comprises a ticket voucher.

54. (Original) A casino gambling system as defined in claim 52 wherein said biometric input apparatus comprises a fingerprint scanner.

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55. (Original) A casino gambling system as defined in claim 52 wherein said biometric input apparatus comprises an eye scanner.

56. (Original) A casino gambling system as defined in claim 52 wherein said biometric input apparatus comprises a camera.

57. (Original) A casino gambling system as defined in claim 52 wherein said biometric input apparatus comprises a microphone coupled to a voice digitizer.

58. (Currently Amended) A casino gambling system, comprising:

a first computer;

a plurality of casino gambling units operatively coupled to said first computer, one of said casino gambling units comprising:

a display unit that;

an input device that allows a player to make an input selection;

a value-input device adapted to receive a credit item as a medium of value; and

a controller operatively coupled to said display unit, said input device, and said value-input device, said controller comprising a processor and a memory operatively coupled to said processor,

said controller being programmed to allow the player to make a wager,

said controller being programmed to cause a game display relating to a game to be generated on said display unit, and

said controller being programmed to determine a value payout associated with an outcome of said video gambling game; and

a second computer operatively coupled to said first computer, said second computer comprising:

a credit-input device adapted to receive the credit item as a medium of value;

a biometric input apparatus capable of generating digital data

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representing a unique physical characteristic of a person; and

a controller operatively coupled to said credit-input device, said biometric input apparatus, said controller of said second computer comprising a microprocessor and a memory,

said controller of said second computer being programmed to cause a first prompt to the person to be generated to cause the person to present a unique physical characteristic of the person to said biometric input apparatus at a first time,

said controller of said second computer being programmed to store a first set of digital data derived from said biometric input apparatus in response to the person presenting the unique physical characteristic to said biometric input apparatus at the first time,

said controller of said second computer being programmed to cause a second prompt to the person to be generated to cause the person to present the same unique physical characteristic of the person to said biometric input apparatus at a second time,

said controller of said second computer being programmed to store a second set of digital data derived from said biometric input apparatus in response to the person presenting the same unique physical characteristic to said biometric input apparatus at the second time,

said controller of said second computer being programmed to determine whether said biometric input apparatus has made a predetermined number of scans of the same unique physical characteristic of the person,

said controller of said second computer being programmed to generate a set of composite digital data by determining an average of said first and second sets of digital data, and

said controller of said second computer being programmed to control access to said second computer based upon said composite digital data, and

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said controller being programmed to determine whether the credit item accepted by said credit-input device is valid.

59. (Original) A casino gambling system as defined in claim 58 wherein said biometric input apparatus comprises a fingerprint scanner.

60. (Original) A casino gambling system as defined in claim 58 wherein said biometric input apparatus comprises an eye scanner.

61. (Original) A casino gambling system as defined in claim 58 wherein said biometric input apparatus comprises a camera.

62. (Original) A casino gambling system as defined in claim 58 wherein said biometric input apparatus comprises a microphone coupled to a voice digitizer.

63. (Original) A casino gambling system as defined in claim 58, wherein said controller of said second computer is programmed to compare a set of digital data representing a unique physical characteristic of a person attempting to use said second computer with said set of composite digital data to determine whether the person attempting to use said second computer should be allowed to use said second computer.

64. (Currently Amended) A casino gambling system, comprising:
a plurality of casino gambling units, one of said casino gambling units comprising:
a display unit;
an input device that allows a player to make an input selection;
a value-input device adapted to receive a credit item as a medium of value; and
a controller operatively coupled to said display unit, said input device,

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and said value-input device, said controller comprising a processor and a memory operatively coupled to said processor,

said controller being programmed to allow the player to make a wager,

said controller being programmed to cause a game display to be generated on said display unit, said game display representing a game selected from one of the following games: video poker, video blackjack, slots, video keno and video bingo,

said game display comprising an image of at least five playing cards if said game is video poker,

said game display comprising a plurality of slot machine reels if said game is slots,

said game display comprising an image of a plurality of playing cards if said game is video blackjack,

said game display comprising an image of a plurality of keno numbers if said game is video keno,

said game display comprising an image of a bingo grid if said game is video bingo, and

said controller being programmed to determine a value payout associated with an outcome of said game;

a computer operatively coupled to one of said casino gambling units, said computer comprising a credit-input device adapted to receive the credit item as a medium of value and a controller that comprises a processor and a memory; and

a biometric input apparatus capable of generating digital data representing a unique physical characteristic of a person, said biometric input apparatus being operatively coupled to one of said controllers,

one of said controllers being programmed to cause a first prompt to the person to be generated to cause the person to present a unique physical characteristic of the person to said biometric input apparatus at a first time,

said one controller being programmed to store a first set of digital data derived from said biometric input apparatus in response to the person presenting the unique physical characteristic to said biometric input apparatus at the first time,

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said one controller being programmed to cause a second prompt to the person to be generated to cause the person to present the same unique physical characteristic of the person to said biometric input apparatus at a second time,

said one controller being programmed to store a second set of digital data derived from said biometric input apparatus in response to the person presenting the same unique physical characteristic to said biometric input apparatus at the second time,

said one controller being programmed to generate a set of composite digital data by determining an average of said first and second sets of digital data, and

said one controller being programmed to control access based upon said composite digital data, and

said one controller being programmed to determine whether the credit item accepted by said credit-input device is valid.

65. (Original) A casino gambling system as defined in claim 64 wherein said biometric input apparatus comprises a fingerprint scanner.

66. (Original) A casino gambling system as defined in claim 64 wherein said biometric input apparatus comprises an eye scanner.

67. (Original) A casino gambling system as defined in claim 64 wherein said biometric input apparatus comprises a camera.

68. (Original) A casino gambling system as defined in claim 64 wherein said biometric input apparatus comprises a microphone coupled to a digitizer.

69. (Currently Amended) A casino gambling system, comprising:
a plurality of casino gambling units, one of said casino gambling units comprising:
a display unit;

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an input device that allows a player to make an input selection;
a value-input device adapted to receive a credit item as a medium of value; and

a controller operatively coupled to said display unit, said input device, and said value-input device, said controller comprising a processor and a memory operatively coupled to said processor,

said controller being programmed to allow the player to make a wager,

said controller being programmed to cause a game display to be generated on said display unit, said game display representing a game selected from one of the following games: video poker, video blackjack, slots, video keno and video bingo,

said game display comprising an image of at least five playing cards if said game is video poker,

said game display comprising a plurality of slot machine reels if said game is slots,

said game display comprising an image of a plurality of playing cards if said game is video blackjack,

said game display comprising an image of a plurality of keno numbers if said game is video keno,

said game display comprising an image of a bingo grid if said game is video bingo, and

said controller being programmed to determine a value payout associated with an outcome of said game;

a computer operatively coupled to one of said casino gambling units, said computer comprising a credit-input device adapted to receive the credit item as a medium of value a controller that comprises a processor and a memory; and

a biometric input apparatus capable of generating digital data in response to scanning a unique physical characteristic of a person, said biometric input apparatus being operatively coupled to one of said controllers,

one of said controllers being programmed to store a first set of digital data derived from said biometric input apparatus in response to the person presenting the

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unique physical characteristic to be scanned by said biometric input apparatus at a first time,

said one controller being programmed to store a second set of digital data derived from said biometric input apparatus in response to the person presenting the same unique physical characteristic to be scanned by said biometric input apparatus at a second time,

said one controller being programmed to determine whether said biometric input apparatus has made a predetermined number of scans of the same unique physical characteristic of the person,

said one controller being programmed to generate composite digital data based on said first and second sets of digital data, and

said one controller being programmed to control access based upon said composite digital data, and

said one controller being programmed to determine whether the credit item accepted by said credit-input device is valid.

70. (Original) A casino gambling system as defined in claim 69 wherein said biometric input apparatus comprises a fingerprint scanner.

71. (Original) A casino gambling system as defined in claim 69 wherein said biometric input apparatus comprises an eye scanner.

72. (Original) A casino gambling system as defined in claim 69 wherein said biometric input apparatus comprises a camera.

73. (Original) A casino gambling system as defined in claim 69 wherein said biometric input apparatus comprises a voice-scanning apparatus.

74. (New) A casino gambling system, comprising:

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a first computer;
a plurality of casino gambling units operatively coupled to said first computer,
one of said casino gambling units comprising:
a display unit;
an input device that allows a player to make an input selection;
a value-input device adapted to receive a credit item as a medium of
value; and
a controller operatively coupled to said display unit, said input device,
and said value-input device, said controller comprising a processor and a
memory operatively coupled to said processor,
said controller being programmed to allow the player to make a
wager,
said controller being programmed to cause a game display
relating to a game to be generated on said display unit, and
said controller being programmed to determine a value payout
associated with an outcome of said video gambling game; and
a second computer operatively coupled to said first computer, said second
computer comprising:
a credit-input device adapted to receive the credit item as a medium of
value;
a biometric input apparatus capable of generating digital data
representing a unique physical characteristic of at least a first and a second
person; and
a controller operatively coupled to said credit-input device, said
biometric input apparatus, said controller of said second computer comprising
a microprocessor and a memory,
said controller of said second computer being programmed to
cause a first prompt to the first person to be generated to cause the first
person to present a unique physical characteristic of the first person to
said biometric input apparatus at a first time,
said controller of said second computer being programmed to
store a first set of digital data derived from said biometric input

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apparatus in response to the first person presenting the unique physical characteristic to said biometric input apparatus at the first time,

said controller of said second computer being programmed to cause a second prompt to the first person to be generated to cause the first person to present the same unique physical characteristic of the first person to said biometric input apparatus at a second time,

said controller of said second computer being programmed to store a second set of digital data derived from said biometric input apparatus in response to the first person presenting the same unique physical characteristic to said biometric input apparatus at the second time,

said controller of said second computer being programmed to cause a first prompt to the second person to be generated to cause the second person to present a unique physical characteristic of the second person to said biometric input apparatus at a first time,

said controller of said second computer being programmed to store a first set of digital data derived from said biometric input apparatus in response to the second person presenting the unique physical characteristic to said biometric input apparatus at the first time,

said controller of said second computer being programmed to cause a second prompt to the second person to be generated to cause the second person to present the same unique physical characteristic of the second person to said biometric input apparatus at a second time,

said controller of said second computer being programmed to store a second set of digital data derived from said biometric input apparatus in response to the second person presenting the same unique physical characteristic to said biometric input apparatus at the second time,

said controller of said second computer being programmed to determine whether said biometric input apparatus has made a predetermined number of scans of the same unique physical

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characteristic of the first person and the second person,

said controller of said second computer being programmed to generate a first set of composite digital data by determining an average of said first and second sets of digital data for the first person,

said controller of said second computer being programmed to generate a second set of composite digital data by determining an average of said first and second sets of digital data for the second person,

said controller of said second computer being programmed to control access to said second computer by,

verifying the identity of the first person based on the first set of composite digital data,

determining whether authorization from the second person is required, and

verifying the identity of the second person based on the second set of composite digital data, and

said controller of said second computer being programmed to determine whether the credit item accepted by said credit-input device is valid.

75. (New) A casino gambling system as defined in claim 74 wherein said controller of said second computer is programmed to require authorization from the second person when the credit item has a value exceeding a monetary limit.